services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is for the airlines to provide air services to specific places including Bilaspur depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route disperal guidelines issued by Government.

Reduction in interest rates on Small Savings

190. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Federation of Postal Employees' Union had protested on January 6, 1999, against Government' decision to reduce the rates of interest for all the schemes of small savings, including

term deposits and Indira Vikas and Krishi Vikas Patras;

(b) if so, the details of their protest and Government's reaction and response thereto; and

(c) the total estimated annual collections through such small savings; and how far these savings are likely to be diverted to her unwholesome avenues like chit funds, mutual funds and lotteries?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) the total estimated net collections of small savings including Public Provident Fund during 1998-99 are Rs. 29000 crore. Small savings schemes continue to carry attractive returns, substantial tax benefits, easy liquidity terms and Government of India guarantee. Therefore, investor confidence will continue in small saving schemes and diversion to other avenues is not expected.

Funds for Promotion of Tourism in States

*191. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the State-wise allocation of funds earmarked for various States for promoting tourism during this year;

(b) the names of the States, who have requested for the grant of financial assistance indicating the names of the schemes under which the assistance has been sought; and

(c) the details of the action taken so far by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANATH KUMAR): (a) to (c) No fund is earmarked Statewise. Each year the Ministry of Tourism prioritises projects for central financial assistance in consultation with State Governments. The State-wise details of projects prioritised for 1998-99 are given in the Statement. *(See* below).

The Central Financial is provided for the following tourism infrastructure projects.

- Tourist Complex/Tourist Bunglows/ 2Motels/Beach Centres
- Yatri Niwas/Yatrikas (for group tourist)
- Tourist Reception Centre
- Wayside Amenities
- Upgradation-Cum-Expansion of exisiting tourist facilitie
- Health Centres
- Public Conveniences at Tourist Centres
- Refurbishment of Monuments/ Heritage Buildings and Improvement of their Environs
- Development of Pilgrim/Tourist Centres and Major Tourism Projects.
- Adventure Sports

- o Sound and Light Show/Flood Lighting/High Mast Lighting/ Musicial Fountain with lights.
- o Assistance for Promotion & Publicity
- * Assistance for Production of Literature
- o Assistance for Promotion of Fairs and Festivals
- o Upgradation and Development of Golf Courses
- o The funds for the projects are released on receipt of detailed project proposals as per guidelines from State Governments.

Statement

State Wise Details of Projects Prioritised, Received and Sanctioned During 1998-99

Sl. No.	State	No. of Project Prioritised	Amount Prioritised (in lakhs)	No. of Projects received	No. of Projects sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14	367.08	13	10	274.08
2..	Assam	12	397.00	11	8	267.03
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	432.00	3	—	—
4.	Bihar	12	325.00	13	5	84.00
5.	Goa	17	411.00	17	10	201.50
6.	Gujarat	15	400.00	10	5	98.23
7.	Haryana	12	312.00	9	5	154.63
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12	532.00	10	6	135.00
9.	J&K	21	710.00	14	2	70.00
10.	Karnataka	14	455.30	11	8	276.92
11.	Kerala	15	467.00	12	4	141.86
12.	Madhya Pradesh	17	421.00	10	1	69.75
13.	Maharashtra	10	265.00	14	8	210.05
14..	Manipur	13	220.00	6	—	—
15.	Meghlaya	15	180.00	10	3	51.51
16.	Mizoram	8	165.00	8	5	114.47
17.	Nagaland	10	200.00	7	7	170.00
18.	Orissa	7	368.00	5	3	129.60
19.	Punjab	8	402.34	7	6	239.29
20.	Rajasthan	25	431.00	21	8	30.23
21.	Sikkim	23	302.00	11	4	29.35
22.	Tamil Nadu	11	435.00	19	13	202.80
23.	Tripura	10	310.00	8	3	21.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	35	740.00	27	6	72.59
25.	West Bengal	20	350.00	5	2	55.00
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	6	200.00	—	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	8	113.00	4	2	47.91
28.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	5	82.00	5	1	10.00
29.	Delhi	19	350.00	13	11	132.23
30.	Daman	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Lakshdweep	3	31.00	1	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	11	189.00	4	—	—
	Total	401	10562.72	308	144*	3289.03

* The remaining projects submitted by the State Govts, are not as per guidelines and Ministry has informed the concerned States accordingly.